

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SAM-01 /083 W

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P R 311444Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2306

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, AO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE NEUTRALITY IN ANGOLA

REF: LISBON 1782 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO PRO-MPLA POLITICAL PRESSURES AT HOME, GOP HAS TAKEN FIRM POSITION THAT GOP TROOPS ARE TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN FACE OF ANGOLAN VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 29 APPROXIMATELY 2,000 PERSONS RESPONDED TO CALL BY "HOUSE OF ANGOLA" AND DEMONSTRATED IN DOWNTOWN LISBON IN SUPPORT OF MPLA. UNDER MPLA BANNER AND PICTURES OF MPLA PRESIDENT AUGUSTINO NETO, CROWD MARCHED TO OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER AND SHOUTED SLOGANS SUCH AS: "MPLA VICTORY OR DEATH; MPLA IS THE PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE ARE MPLA; DEATH TO THE CIA," AND "ESSO OUT OF ANGOLA." THRUST OF SPEAKER CRITICISM WAS AGAINST PORTUGUESE NEUTRALITY DURING VIOLENCE AND KILLING OF MARCH 23. SPEAKERS ALSO CRITICIZED GOP HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA, LUANDA OPERATIONAL COMMANDER LTC ALMENDRA, AND PRESENCE OF "ZAMBIAN CITIZENS."

2. PRO-MPLA RALLY SUPPORTED BY EXTREME-LEFTIST LEAGUE OF UNION AND REVOLUTIONARY ACTION (LIGA DE UNIAO E ACCOA REVOLUCIONARIA-LUAR). LUAR COMMUNIQUE DEMANDED GOP "TAKE CONCRETE MEASURES TO APPLY THE ALVOR ACCORD AND DEFEND THE REVOLUTIONARY INTERESTS EXPRESSED BY THE MPLA." ACCORDING TO PRESS, RALLY ALSO SUPPORTED BY REVOLUTIONARY COOPERATION JUNTA REPRESENTING BOLIVIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (EXERCITO DE LIBERTACAO NACIONAL - ELN), ARGENTINIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (EXERCITO REVOLUCIONARIO DE POVO - ERP), URUGUAYAN TUPAMAROS, AND CHILEAN LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MOVIMENTO DE ESQUERDA REVOLUCIONARIO - MER).

3. MARCH 30 COMMUNIQUE FROM COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY FORCES IN ANGOLA CRITICIZED LISBON PRESS COVERAGE OF ANGOLAN EVENTS AND SPECIFICALLY REPUDIATED POSITION TAKEN BY HOUSE OF ANGOLA IN LISBON. PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE STATED GOP TROOPS ARE NOT THERE TO SUPPORT ANY PARTICULAR IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL GROUP, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ALVOR AGREEMENT RECOGNIZES FNLA, MPLA, AND UNITA AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

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4. MINISTER OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION ALMEIDA SANTOS RETURNED TO LISBON MARCH 30 FROM ANGOLA. SANTOS SAID ALVOR AGREEMENT MUST BE RESPECTED AND THAT "THE PORTUGUESE POSITION MUST BE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, AN ATTITUDE OF NEUTRALITY IN WHATEVER CONFLICT DEVELOPS BETWEEN THE THREE MOVEMENTS."

5. COMMENT: MESSAGE FROM LISBON AS ECHOED BY SANTOS AND

ANGOLAN COMMANDER IN CHIEF IS SAME: GOP WILL NOT STEP OUTSIDE  
ALVOR LIMITS. GOP REITERATION OF LIMITED RESPONSIBILITY  
IN ANGOLAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS POINTS UP GOP VIEW OF ALVOR ACCORD  
AS PORTUGAL'S RATHER THAN ANGOLA'S TICKET TO FREEDOM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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